

THE GUARDIAN

Published every week-day morning at 136 Prince Street, Charlottetown, P.E.I., by The Thomson Company Limited

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The Auld Ayr Kirk

Three hundred years lie about the Auld Kirk of Ayr, in Scotland, and the celebration of this event in recent weeks has attracted wide attention.

The tercentenary of the present building has been marked by varied activities, culminating in a pageant performed in the Ayr Town Hall.

A weaver said unto his son The day that he was born, "My blessings on your curly bow, Ye'll rin wi' pins the morn."

EDITORIAL NOTES

A news report says that women account for only a small percentage of the cigars used in this country.

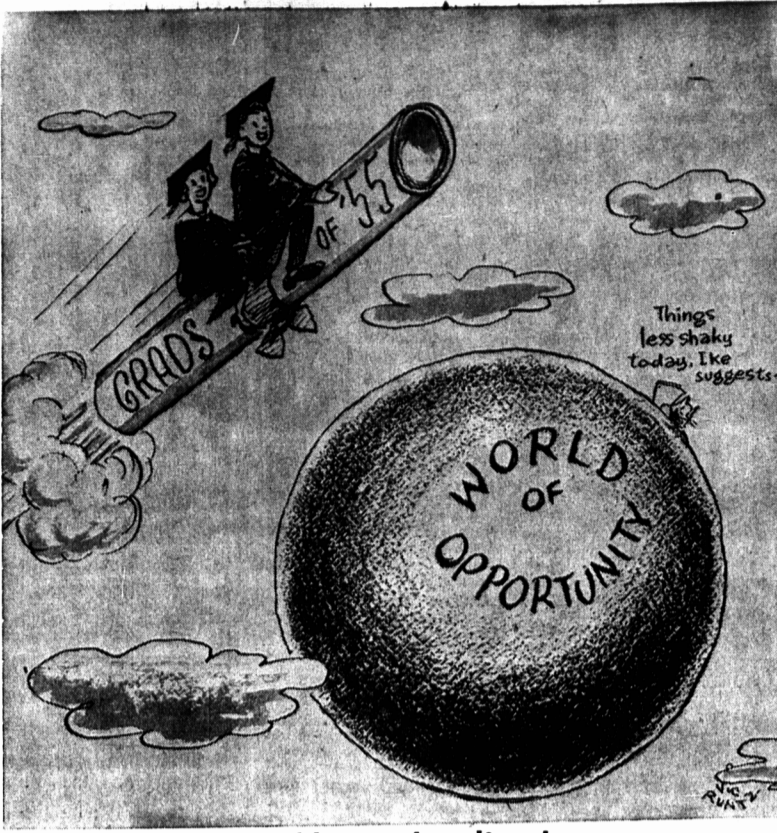
The average annual income among American farmers is about \$2600. However, there are 1 1/2 million farm families, mostly in the South, whose incomes are less than \$1000.

A report from Britain says that one of the main problems facing both Conservatives and Labourites in the current election is the lack of any real difference in basic policy.

A German professor of Innsbruck University, Dr. Theodor Erimann, has invented a portable radar apparatus for the blind.

A broken clay tablet bearing part of the Gilgamesh Epic, the famous Babylonian myth written about 1500 B.C., was recently discovered by a shepherd near Megiddo in Israel.

The whole question is extremely complex; and it was no enviable task that the committee members took in hand.



Happy Landings!

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

AN APPRECIATION

Sir,—Will you kindly allow space to convey to the City Council and Mayor, also all officials, the appreciation of the Art Society of P. E. Island on the fine spirit of cooperation shown our Society by extending them the use of the beautifully renovated lobby in the new Civic Centre in which to show their 1955 Art Exhibition at present hanging there.

It is indeed gratifying and helpful to find our city fathers so wholeheartedly behind us in our effort to bring before the public of our island some of the beauties of our landscape, marines and other subjects. The recent renovation in the Civic Building, housing the bus terminals, the P.E.I. Travel Bureau and the spacious lobby, has resulted in accommodation of a quality we believe unmatched anywhere in the Maritime Provinces.

I am, Sir, etc. A. L. WRIGHT

The New Approach

By W. N. Ewer United Kingdom Information Officer

It is, of course, the proposal for a "top-level" meeting between the heads of the Governments of the U. S., Britain, France and Russia that has caught headlines and public imagination, and it is undoubtedly an important feature of the invitation which went from Paris to Moscow on May 9th.

But this is by no means the whole. It is only one feature. And myself am not at all sure that it is the most important. The essence of this three-power plan is, to my mind, that it does not contemplate dramatic or rapid results from any single meeting at whatever "level".

The place of the heads of Government meetings in this procedure will be simply in a short meeting to exchange views, to formulate issues to be worked on, and to agree on methods to be followed in exploring solutions.

But it is felt that it would, for example, be a bad tactical error to include Far Eastern questions among the topics for consideration. They are not an occasion of any direct conflict between the three powers and the Soviet Union.

So this is the plan as the three "Western" Governments see it. It is not dramatic. It neither expects nor seeks miracles. It does not want to attempt too much at once. It is essentially practical.

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The Poet's Corner

ENIGMA

The rain was but a whisper when at first With timid hesitation, it tried The leaf, the blading grass, the crocus cup.

Then slyly, with a swift, staccato chatter, It spoke, crescendoing in sound, Exulting now in all it had to tell In riddles, daring each to spell the matter—

—Frances Gass in the New York Times.

The Age Old Story

Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness: thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress; have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer.

TROPICAL DELICACY Tips of tender bamboo shoots are pickled and eaten in some parts of the West Indies.

A ship travelling at 30 knots is covering the equivalent of nearly 35 land miles an hour.

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Medically Speaking

Herman N. Bundesen, M.D.

NAIL-BITING IS AN EXPRESSION OF SOME STRAIN

Children who bite their nails have always given parents a good deal of anxiety, to judge by the letters they regularly write me on this subject.

In a child who is happy and not backward, this is not necessarily a sign of anything serious, and is usually outgrown.

With nail-biting, as with thumb-sucking, the parental worry is often all out of proportion to the habit itself. Sometimes the parent's overconcern may even give a clue to the cause, and the same is true of thumb-sucking and bed-wetting.

In some children, the three habits go together, while several members of one family generally have the nail-biting habit.

Bitting the nails is not usually done consciously, but is an automatic expression of some underlying emotional strain. This may also take the form of gnawing, or chewing on anything handy, such as a pencil.

In children, the nail-biting may come to the surface or become pronounced at special tense moments—before a school exam, or before reciting in class.

Mystery and horror programs on TV and radio can also work up nervous tension in a child who tends to bite his nails.

Usually when the tenseness is relieved, the nail-biting automatically stops. However, you can go about this the wrong way, which simply adds to the child's stress.

Restricting the child's activity so you seem to be punishing him can just break down his self-confidence and sense of security, when you should be helping to build them up.

Punishing, spanking, nagging—these won't cure nail-biting, because the habit is an unconscious one. The thing to do is to try to find out the pressure the child is under. Parents and teachers may be causing this pressure themselves.

Mechanical guards and bad-tasting lotions are not very helpful, as a rule, and may even be boomerang. A child can get used to the taste of a drug, or his nervousness may just come out in some other form of fidgeting.

Any source of stress should be cleared up, if this can easily be found. Often, however, parents give a much needed impetus to "start the ball rolling".

But the real work will have to be done by "essential preparation and orderly negotiation most likely to bring about agreements by progressive stages".

There can be no assurance of success. All that the three powers offer and ask for is that a "new effort" shall be made. The next word lies with the Soviet leaders.

NOT DRAMATIC

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NOTES BY THE WAY

Fishermen have argued for years as to whether fish bite best when the moon is full. An heretical theory, however, holds that it really depends on whether the fish is fat! — Edmonton Journal.

The Regiment of Canadian Guards now has four battalions. As individuals, many of the men in the formation have already won battle honors, being veterans. As a unit, though, the regiment still has to win its spurs. However, judging from the appearance of the Guardsmen occasionally seen around town, the regiment has already won handsily the battle of the blanco brush and the polishing cloth. — Ottawa Citizen.

Planning for university expansion should begin without delay. The period of grave, before enrolments start to swell sharply is not long; in fact some institutions, including the University of Alberta, are beginning to feel the pressure already. Under our constitution the primary responsibility rests with the provinces, but large-scale financial help from the federal government will undoubtedly be necessary. This matter deserves a place of importance on the agenda of the Dominion-Provincial conference next fall. — Edmonton Journal.

People like to think they are capable of doing 2 or three things at the same time. More often than not, none of the things get done well which leads to trouble and, sometimes, death or permanent injury. What set us to thinking about that aspect of human nature was

are unable to discover the cause, and then they should not persist, but simply try to give the child the feeling of being accepted and secure, and wait for the habit to disappear by itself.

QUESTION AND ANSWER H. D.: My sixty-year-old mother is coming home from the hospital soon, after having virus pneumonia. Will it still be contagious? Answer: It is not likely that the virus pneumonia will still be contagious on her return home.

the story from Corunna about a man and his wife who nearly lost their lives when their car struck a tree after the husband had continued to drive while trying to kill a spider in the car. Most motorists have experienced the same temptation to keep going while chasing flies, bees and other elusive objects. The prudent and safe thing to do, of course, is to pull over to the curb, get rid of the object and then drive on. If we all remember to do that there will be fewer dead and maimed motorists and pedestrians, and more dead insects. — Detroit Free Press.

The people's right to know is taking a beating in Washington these days. Now Defence Secretary Wilson, widely criticized for his seemingly rigid clamp on information, has appointed an official with restrictive ideas as top public relations man for the armed forces. And the United Press reports that congressional committees are aping the executive branch of the government with more and more secret meetings. It is the public's business they are hiding, and the public has a right to know the complete reasons — if any — for this dangerous bureaucratic hush-hush. — New York World-Telegram and Sun.

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